

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for the processing of command signals within an audiovisual network comprising at least one element liable to send a digital command signal to at least one peripheral, called an analog peripheral, designed to receive analog commands, wherein the method implements, in a conversion device, a conversion of said digital command signal into at least one of said analog commands, said conversion being selectively configured as a function of said peripheral.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said conversion device implements the following steps:
 - the storage of at least one piece of configuration information representing said peripheral;
 - the reception of said digital command signal;
 - the conversion of said digital command signal into an analog command signal taking account of said piece or pieces of configuration information; and
 - the transmission of said analog command signals to said analog peripheral.
3. A method according to claim 2, comprising an initial step for the transmission of said piece of configuration information or said pieces of configuration information of said peripheral to said conversion device.
4. A method according to claim 2, comprising a step for the reading, by said device, of said piece or pieces of configuration information on a detachable data carrier.
5. A method according to claim 2, wherein said method comprises a step for the reading, by said device, of said piece or pieces of configuration information on a detachable data carrier and wherein said reading itself comprises a step for the decoding of mechanical elements belonging to said carrier and representing said peripheral.

6. A method according to claim 2, wherein said method comprises a step for the reading, by said device, of said piece or pieces of configuration information on a detachable data carrier and wherein said carrier belongs to the group comprising:

- 5 - smart cards;
- magnetic carriers; and
- optical carriers.

7. A method according to claim 2, wherein said conversion device implements a step to verify the validity of said digital command signal as a
10 function of said piece or pieces of configuration information.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein said conversion device is independent of said audiovisual network element or elements and of said analog peripheral or peripherals.

9. A method according to claim 1, comprising a step for the storage of at
15 least one piece of conversion information representing a set of commands accepted by said peripheral.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said pieces of conversion information are transmitted preliminarily by one of said elements of the network to said conversion device.

20 11. A method according to claim 9, comprising a step for the reading, by said conversion device, of said piece or pieces of configuration information on a detachable data carrier.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said digital command signal is of an IEEE 1394 type.

25 13. A method according to claim 12, comprising a step for the storage of data representing a configuration associated with said peripheral in a directory of said conversion device, said directory being compatible with the ConfigROM IEEE 1394 format.

30 14. A method according to claim 1, wherein the analog command signal is of a wireless type.

15. A method according to claim 1, wherein the analog command signal is of an infrared type.

16. A method according to claim 1, wherein pieces of data associated with said analog command signal are sent to said peripheral on the same transmission carrier.

17. A method according to claim 1, wherein pieces of data associated with said analog command signal are sent to said peripheral on a distinct transmission carrier.

18. A method according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral belongs to the group comprising:

- camcorders;
- television sets;
- video recorders;
- optical carrier readers; and
- set-top boxes.

19. A device for the processing of command signals within an audiovisual network comprising at least one element of said network liable to send a digital command signal to at least one peripheral, called an analog peripheral, designed to receive analog commands, wherein the device comprises means for the conversion of said digital command signal into at least one of said analog commands, the conversion being selectively configured as function of said peripheral.

20. A device according to claim 19, comprising the following means:

- means for the storage of at least one piece of configuration information representing said peripheral;
- means for the reception of said digital command signal;
- means for the conversion of said digital command signal into an analog command signal taking account of said piece or pieces of configuration information; and
- means for the transmission of said analog command signal to

said analog peripheral.

21. A device according to claim 20, comprising means for the initial reception of said pieces or pieces of configuration information of said peripheral transmitted by an element of said network.
- 5 22. A device according to claim 20, comprising means for the reading of said piece or pieces of configuration information on a detachable data carrier.
23. A device according to claim 20, wherein said device comprises means for the reading of said piece or pieces of configuration information on a detachable data carrier and wherein said reading means themselves comprise means for the
- 10 decoding of mechanical elements belonging to said carrier and representing said peripheral.
24. A device according to claim 20, wherein said device comprises means for the reading of said piece or pieces of configuration information on a detachable data carrier and wherein said carrier belongs to the group comprising:
- 15 - smart cards;
 - magnetic carriers; and
 - optical carriers.
25. A device according to claim 20, wherein said conversion device implements means to verify the validity of said digital command signal as a
- 20 function of said piece or pieces of configuration information.
26. A device according to claim 19, said device being independent of the audiovisual network element or elements and of said analog peripheral or peripherals.
27. A device according to claim 19, comprising means for the storage of at
- 25 least one piece of conversion information representing a set of commands accepted by said peripheral.
28. A device according to claim 27, wherein said pieces of conversion information are transmitted preliminarily by one of said elements of the network to said device.

29. A device according to claim 27, comprising means for the reading of said piece or pieces of configuration information on a detachable data carrier.
30. A device according to claim 19, wherein said digital command signal is of an IEEE 1394 type.
- 5 31. A device according to claim 30, comprising means for the storage of data representing a configuration associated with said peripheral in a directory compatible with the ConfigROM IEEE 1394 format.
32. A device according to claim 19, wherein the analog command signal is of a wireless type.
- 10 33. A device according to claim 19, wherein the analog command signal is of an infrared type.
34. A device according to claim 19, comprising means for the transmission of data associated with said analog command signal to said peripheral on the same transmission carrier.
- 15 35. A device according to claim 19, comprising means for the transmission of data associated with said analog command signal to said peripheral on a distinct transmission carrier.
36. A device according to claim 19, wherein said peripheral belongs to the group comprising:
- 20 - camcorders;
 - television sets;
 - video recorders;
 - optical carrier readers; and
 - set-top boxes.
- 25 37. An audiovisual communications network comprising:
- at least one peripheral, called an analog peripheral, designed to receive analog commands;
 - at least one element liable to send a digital command signal to said analog peripheral; and

- at least one command signals processing device comprising means for the conversion of said digital command signal into at least one of said analog commands, said conversion being selectively configured as a function of said peripheral.

- 5 38. A computer program product comprising program elements, recorded on a carrier readable by at least one microprocessor designed to be implemented in a device for the processing of command signals within an audiovisual network comprising at least one element liable to send a digital command signal to at least one peripheral designed to receive analog commands, wherein said program
- 10 elements control said microprocessor or microprocessors so that, in said processing device, they carry out a conversion of said digital command signals into at least one of said analog commands, the conversion being selectively configured as a function of said peripheral.
- 15 39. A computer program product, comprising sequences of instructions adapted to the implementation of a method for the processing of command signals according to claim 1, when said program is executed on a computer.